

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the claims have been amended to improve clarity and claims 2, 5, and 6 have been cancelled, while new claims 7 and 8 have been added. No new matter is presented in the foregoing amendments. Approval and entry of the same is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Best, Shear or Cooper et al. In light of the following remarks, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clearly set forth that the software apparatus is for reproducing "encrypted or non-encrypted software data received via an input route including a storage medium and by communications with the remote source . . . ". In order to handle both types of input routes, the input switchover means has a first switchover means which directs the software data to a signal processing means "for performing unique signal processing based on the input route of the software data . . . ". Thereafter, a second switchover means directs the output of the signal processing means to an appropriate error processing means for "conducting error processing based on the input route . . . ". Applicants respectfully submit that these limitations are neither taught nor suggested by the cited prior art.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner remove his rejection to outstanding claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 7 distinguishes over the prior art in that the output route switchover means outputs the "encrypted software data to a writable medium." This loopback is discussed in the specification at page 10, line 12 to page 11, line 2. Applicants respectfully submit that this loopback is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art.

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In accordance with the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art, taken in any proper combination. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining informalities to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such informalities.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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